

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on January 30, 2003, as well as the art cited. Claims 1-34 are currently pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-22, 24-26, and 30-34 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tyburski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,470). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to an alarm mechanism. The alarm mechanism including a hardware component, including first and second registers, the first register adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of at least one alarm and the second register adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm and a software component, responsive to interrupt requests from the hardware component, adapted to read the first and second registers.

Applicant has reviewed the cited art, in particular the sections indicated by the Examiner in support of the rejections of claims 1-6, and does not find that Tyburski teaches or suggests the alarm mechanism found in claims 1-6. In particular, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a hardware component, including first and second registers, the first register adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of at least one alarm as found in claim 1. Further, Tyburski does not teach or suggest the second register adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm as found in claim 1. In addition, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a software component, responsive to interrupt requests from the hardware component, adapted to read the first and second registers as found in claim 1. As a result, claim 1 is not anticipated by Tyburski and should be allowed.

Claims 2-6 depend from and further define allowable claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons given above.

Claim 7

Claim 7 is directed to an alarm mechanism. The alarm mechanism including at least one alarm, a first register, responsive to the at least one alarm, and adapted to store a value that

indicates a change in state of at least one alarm, and a second register, responsive to the at least one alarm, and adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm.

Applicant has reviewed the cited art, in particular the sections indicated by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claims 7-13, and does not find that Tyburski teaches or suggests the alarm mechanism of claims 7-13. In particular, Tyburski does not teach or suggest an alarm mechanism including at least one alarm, a first register, responsive to the at least one alarm, and adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of at least one alarm as found in claim 7. Further, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a second register, responsive to the at least one alarm, and adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm. As a result, claim 7 is not anticipated by Tyburski and should be allowed.

Claims 8-13 depend from and further define allowable claim 7 and are allowable for at least those reasons given above

Claim 14

Claim 14 is directed to a method for monitoring alarm conditions. The method includes receiving an indication of a change in state of an alarm, recording the change in state of the alarm in a first register, recording the current state of the changed alarm in a second register, and generating an interrupt.

Applicant has reviewed the cited art, in particular the sections indicated by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claims 14-18, and does not find that Tyburski teaches or suggests the method for monitoring alarm conditions as found in claims 14-18. In particular, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a method for monitoring alarm conditions including recording the change in state of the alarm in a first register, recording the current state of the changed alarm in a second register, and generating an interrupt as found in claim 14. As a result, claim 14 is not anticipated by Tyburski and should be allowed.

Claims 15-18 depend from and further define allowable claim 14 and are allowable for at least those reasons given above

Claim 19

Claim 19 is directed to a telecommunications system. The system including at least one access device having a plurality of ports adapted to couple to a plurality of subscriber lines, a

plurality of line cards disposed in the at least one access device and providing the plurality of ports, and a monitoring circuit disposed in the access device. The monitoring circuit adapted to monitor for alarm conditions for the at least one access device. The system further includes an alarm mechanism, communicatively coupled to the monitoring circuit, the alarm mechanism including a hardware component, including first and second registers, the first register adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of at least one alarm and the second register adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm, and a software component, responsive to interrupt requests from the hardware component, adapted to read the first and second registers.

Applicant has reviewed the cited art, in particular the sections indicated by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claims 19-22 and 24-26, and does not find that Tyburski teaches or suggests the telecommunications system of claims 19-22 and 24-26. In particular, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a telecommunications system including an alarm mechanism, communicatively coupled to a monitoring circuit, the alarm mechanism including a hardware component, including first and second registers as found in claim 1. Further, Tyburski does not teach or suggest the first register adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of at least one alarm and the second register adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm as found in claim 19. In addition, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a software component, responsive to interrupt requests from the hardware component, adapted to read the first and second registers as found in claim 19. As a result, claim 19 is not anticipated by Tyburski and should be allowed.

Claims 20-26 depend from and further define allowable claim 19 and are allowable for at least those reasons given above.

Claim 30

Claim 30 is directed to a method for monitoring alarm conditions in an access device. The method includes monitoring a plurality of serial lines on a back plane of the access device, when successive cells have corrupted synchronization patterns, generating an alarm. The method further includes receiving the alarm, recording a change in state of an alarm in a first n-bit register, recording the current state of the changed alarm in a second n-bit register, and generating an interrupt for a software component to read the first and second n-bit registers.

Applicant has reviewed the cited art and in particular the sections indicated by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claims 30 through 34 and does not find that Tyburski teaches or suggests the telecommunications system of claims 30 through 34. In particular, Tyburski does not teach or suggest a method of monitoring alarm conditions in an access device as found in claim 1. Further, Tyburski does not teach or suggest monitoring a plurality of serial lines on a back plane of the access device, when successive cells have corrupted synchronization patterns, generating an alarm found in claim 30. In addition, Tyburski does not teach or suggest receiving the alarm, recording a change in state of an alarm in a first n-bit register, recording the current state of the changed alarm in a second n-bit register or generating an interrupt for a software component to read the first and second n-bit registers as found in claim 30. As a result, claim 30 is not anticipated by Tyburski and should be allowed.

Claims 31-34 depend from and further define allowable claim 30 and are allowable for at least those reasons given above.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an ipsissimis verbis test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See MPEP 2131

The Tyburski reference that the Examiner has relied upon does not teach every element of claims 1-22, 24-26 and 30-34. Applicant is not able to extract the information that the Examiner has relied upon to make the stated rejections from the cited art. As such, the Office Action fails to show that the art of record teaches the elements recited in rejected claims 1-22, 24-26 and 30-34. Therefore, Tyburski does not anticipate claims 1-22, 24-26 and 30-34.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to *address each and every element* claimed in order to provide applicant with a full and fair opportunity to respond thereto. MPEP 706.02(j) recites in part, "It is important for an examiner to properly communicate the basis for a rejection

so that the issues can be identified early and the applicant can be given fair opportunity to reply.”
Applicant has not been given any opportunity to respond to a complete rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tyburski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,470) in view of Gradl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,269). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 27

Claim 27 is directed to an alarm mechanism for a telecommunications access device. The alarm mechanism includes at least one alarm associated with each of a plurality of serial low voltage differential signal (LVDS) lines of the access device, a first n-bit register, responsive to the at least one alarm and adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of the at least one alarm, and a second n-bit register, responsive to the at least one alarm, and adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm. Corresponding bits of the first and second n-bit registers are associated with a corresponding alarm and a corresponding LVDS line.

Applicant has reviewed the cited art, in particular the sections indicated by the Examiner in support of the rejection of claims 27-29, and does not find that the references alone or in combination teach or suggest the alarm mechanism of claim 27. In particular, Tyburski nor Gradl teach or suggest an alarm mechanism including at least one alarm associated with each of a plurality of serial low voltage differential signal (LVDS) lines of the access device, a first n-bit register, responsive to the at least one alarm and adapted to store a value that indicates a change in state of the at least one alarm as found in claim 27. Further neither Tyburski nor Gradl teach or suggest a second n-bit register, responsive to the at least one alarm, and adapted to store current states of each of the at least one alarm as found in claim 27. Respectfully, the Office has failed to provide a prima facie case of obviousness. Neither reference teaches or suggest the alarm mechanism of claim 27. As a result, claim 27 is not obvious over Tyburski in view of Gradl and should be allowed

Claims 28-29 depend from and further define allowable claim 27 and are allowable for at least those reasons given above.

Claim 23

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tyburski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,470) in view of Anand (U.S. Patent No. 5,426,688).

Claim 23 is directed to the telecommunications system of claim 19, wherein the line cards comprise at least one of Plain Old Fashion Telephone Service (POTS), digital subscriber line (DSL), and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

Claim 23 depends from allowable claim 19 and is allowable for at least those reasons given above with respect to claim 19.

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Title: ALARM MECHANISM

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 1-34 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

Respectfully submitted,

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